

What are our priorities?

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Safe-Skilled-Ready Workforce (SSRW) program works with partners in education, industry, labor, trade associations, professional organizations, and academia to ensure that all individuals, before they join the U.S. workforce or start a new job, have the foundational knowledge and skills needed to benefit from and contribute to safe, healthy and productive workplaces.

What do we do?

- Research the foundational knowledge and skills youth, contingent and other vulnerable workers in the United States and abroad need for workplace safety and health.
- Disseminate research findings to academic, community, education, industry, professional association and government stakeholder groups using diffusion science methods.
- Add foundational workplace safety and health competencies as missing "life skills" to school curriculum, youth develop programs, and the activities of other organizations and government agencies that promote positive and healthy youth development.
- Add foundational workplace safety and health skills as missing "life skills" to community college career pathways, temporary employment agency trainings, and government workforce development programs that focus on new hires, contingent workers and other vulnerable populations.
- Conduct research to better understand how organizations can best integrate these foundational competencies into their programs and activities.

What have we accomplished?

- Published 54 *Youth@Work: Talking Safety* curricula tailored for all U.S. states and territories, and the Miami-Dade Public School System. These were revised and updated to teach foundational workplace safety and health knowledge and skills to adolescents.
- Developed and validated an online assessment tool (with the non-profit, NOCTI) to measure the effectiveness of the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Aligned *Talking Safety* with the Common Core State Standards, the National Health Education Standards, the Common Career Technical Core, the Ohio New Learning Standards, the Florida State Standards, and the Next Generation Science Standards. This makes it easier for the curriculum to be adopted by schools across the country.
- Completed the first year of a study in Miami-Dade County Public School System, the fourth largest school district in the country, on inclusion of foundational workplace safety and health competencies in 8th grade science. NIOSH trained more than 100 teachers, and collected evaluation data from more than 2,500 students who received *Talking Safety* as part of their science curriculum.

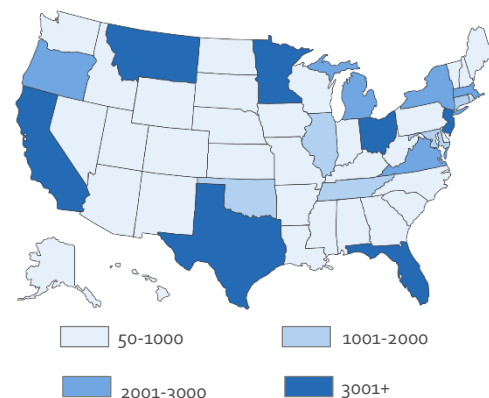
What's next?

- Publish *Safety Matters*, a one-hour training for youth, co-branded with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). Assist with implementation of the program so AIHA members play a vital role in preparing young people for safe and healthy work.
- Help the Oklahoma Department of Labor, Department of Education, and the Oklahoma Safety Council implement Oklahoma Senate Bill 262, which calls for workplace safety education in all public schools using the *Talking Safety* curriculum.
- Complete a Spanish language version of NIOSH *Talking Safety* curriculum, Florida Edition.
- Facilitate the delivery of foundational workplace safety and health competencies to more than 5,000 8th grade students in the Miami-Dade County Public School System.
- Train at least 200 teachers in the Connecticut Technical High Schools System on the *Talking Safety* curriculum. The school system serves more than 11,000 students.
- Publish a *Staying Safe at Work* curriculum for youth with disabilities in partnership with the University of California-Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program.
- Publish a peer review journal article on foundational workplace safety and health competencies for an emerging workforce.

At-A-Glance

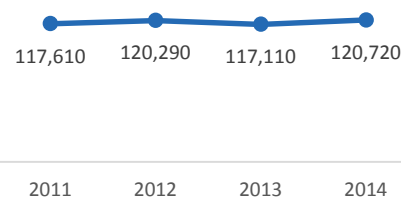
The Safe-Skilled-Ready Workforce (SSRW) program aims to equip young people and new hires with eight, transferable, work-readiness competencies to help protect them on the job now and throughout their lives. This snapshot shows recent accomplishments and upcoming work.

Downloads of state-specific versions of NIOSH *Youth@Work: Talking Safety* curriculum



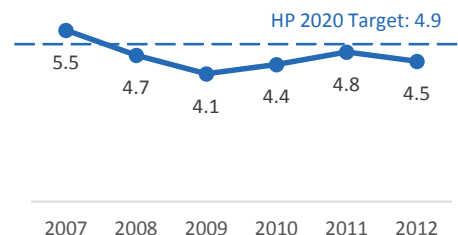
Source: NIOSH program records

Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work for young workers (age 14 - 24), All U.S.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Emergency department visits for work-related illness and injuries (per 100 workers 15 - 19 years old)



Source: Healthy People 2020